

Kasson City Council opposes school's preservation

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KASSON -- The Kasson City Council opposes placing the city's old elementary school on the National Register of Historic Places.

On Wednesday, the council voted unanimously in favor of a resolution opposing the designation of the school. This comes less than a week before the Minnesota Historical Society's State Review Board will vote on the recommendation.

The move angered members of the Kasson Alliance for Restoration, which has spearheaded the push to get the building on the national register.

"There is a lot of work that has to be done for a building to get recognized for its historic properties. And they are going to publicly reject (that)," said Spencer Stevens, vice president of KARE.

Voters in November rejected a \$3.9 million plan to renovate the 89-year-old elementary school building into a library and city government complex. Based on the election, city officials began moving toward demolishing the building with hopes of building a new library on the site. But those plans were halted after a district judge ruled in favor of KARE in Dodge District Court, granting a temporary injunction against the building's demolition. A court hearing is scheduled for February.

The resolution opposing the school's recommendation states that the "City Council finds that listing the School on the National Register is unnecessary because demolishing the School is in the public's best interest."